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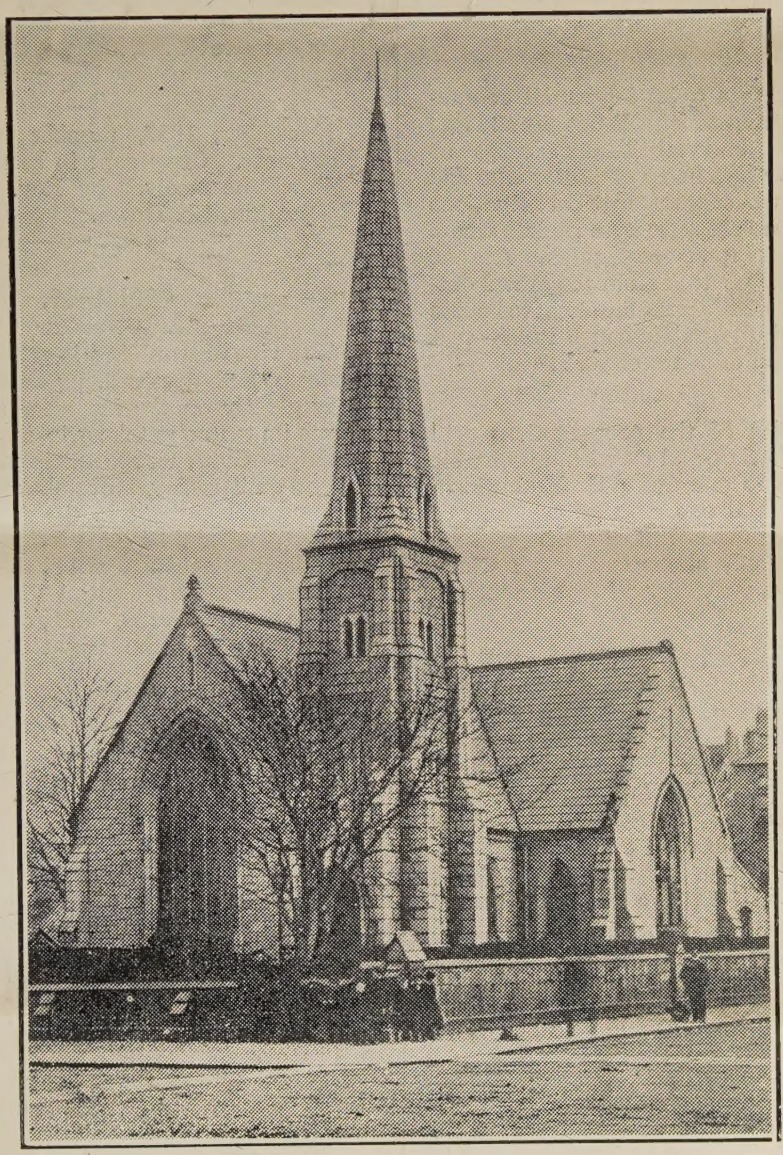
The Non-Subscribing Presbyterian

No. 373. NOVEMBER, 1937.

GOOD. TRUTH. BEAUTY.

"At this altar, I have eternal Refuge."—PRESTON BRADLEY.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, NEWRY.

By courtesy of Newry Reporter.

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NOTES AND NEWS.

October is the month of Harvest Thanksgivings, and there may be still some outstanding ones. The reports that come in are enthusiastic with reference to the proceedings and the attendance.

* * *

We have known quite influential congregations in England which did not get as large attendances at Harvest Thanksgivings as we do, but we also know of others who had "sermons" at which were large congregations and at which the passages were packed where collections rose to three figures. At one place the collectors took from the crowd outside, and even went across the street to houses there and into the public-house itself—that however was "in the days of yore!"

* * *

The activities of the congregations will now be in full swing, and we wish a profitable winter session to one and all. Enthusiasm is contagious, and one activity rises out of another, and with the willing workers that we have, the life finds channels through which its power is felt, ennobling all that it touches.

* * *

We have received the programme of the Central Adult School, 75 Upper Arthur Street, which meets on Sundays at 3-30 p.m. The Adult School is an old institution and is doing good work. The syllabus is a very representative one and many of the lecturers hold University degrees. The subjects are up-to-date and deal with matters of vital interest. It may be that some of our people in town would like to visit the School on some Sunday afternoon.

* * *

As will be seen from our advertisement columns, the India Committee of the General Assembly has made an interesting venture in publishing a "wall-newspaper," copies of which are to be issued to every minister, to pin up on Sunday, November 7th, in his Church, Sunday School and Primary Department. It is called *Khasi News*, and contains five pictures of Khasi people, a map, information about the country, and a farewell message from the Rev. Margaret Barr, who sailed back to her work in India on October 21st. This is something to look out for!

* * *

PULPIT SUPPLY—The Rev. W. Eakin of 103 Greenore Street, Belfast, will be available for pulpit supply after November 1st.

* * *

December, 1937, number published 27th November. Copy sent in before November 20th will be received by Rev. John Barron, Ballywalter, Co. Down.

GAMBLING.

The vice of gambling is perhaps the most insidious and demoralising of the black list. It is greatly on the increase, and in many forms its tentacles take grip in all classes of society. Churches are making a stand against it, and on Tuesday, November 9th, a Demonstration will be held in the Assembly Hall, Belfast, the Lord Bishop presiding, and among the principal speakers will be the Rev. Benson Perkins, Methodist Central Mission, Sheffield, and Rev. James Barr, M.P., of Free Church of Scotland and the Right Rev. Dr. John Waddell

As this is a matter of general interest to our congregations, we hope for a good attendance.

SUBSIDY FUND.

Contributions should be addressed to Rev. A. Davison, Dromore, by whom they will be gratefully acknowledged.

THE DIVINE WISDOM.

I. TIMOTHY III. 5—"That thou mayst know how thou oughest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and the ground of the truth."

EX. XXIV. 10—"And they saw the God of Israel: and there was under his feet as it were a paved work of a sapphire stone, and as it were the body of heaven in his clearness."

YORK STREET ANNIVERSARY.

More hearty congratulations than ever should go to our York Street Congregation on the success of their great undertaking at the Ulster Hall this year. For the eleventh time every seat was taken and hundreds of people were turned away. This year however the Service can only be described as an heroic venture. When Dr. Agnew returned from Germany he was so gravely ill that no one believed he would preach again for many months. The first thought of the York Street Congregation was to cancel the Ulster Hall Service. He would not hear about it and it was plain that had the Committee persisted and the Service been given up it would have a serious effect upon him. It was decided to go on with the arrangements Once the decision was made the York Street people threw themselves into the preliminary work more willingly than ever but with grave misgivings. The rumour that Dr. Agnew would not be able to preach and the absence of the visitors who usually attend the Church during September and become as enthusiastic as the members in working for the Service, was in itself a grave handicap. Many members were also out of town and the Service previous to the Ulster Hall was the least attended for many years. Dr. Agnew was only able to appear in the pulpit and it was plain that it was an effort for him to speak even in the familiar surroundings of his own Church and with the Service only a week ahead. The die was cast however and members redoubled their efforts. During the week it was learnt that many country Harvests would fall on the same night and the Sunday of the Service turned out wet for the first time. Members and friends went to the Ulster Hall with anxious hearts. Soon however it was plain that one anxiety was to be removed People were leaving the Hall as usual for want of seats. The greater one was as to the Preacher. That too was soon relieved. Only an inner circle could detect any difference in his preachlng and to the hundreds present all went as before, indeed many say that it was the best of all the Ulster Hall Services. We can realise however the anxiety of all concerned. Many have wondered how a small Church has been cleared of debt and rebuilt and a splended congregation gathered into it in the face of endless difficulties in a few years. The spirit under which this Service was undertaken seems to be part of the secret. It was a demonstration of what courage and loyalty can do and we extend to all concerned our heartiest congratulations on a well deserved success.

On Sunday, November 7th,

A copy of KHASI NEWS, a novel "wall-newspaper" published by the General Assembly, will be pinned up in every Church, Sunday School and Primary Department. It contains pictures and news of the Khasi Hills, and a farewell message from the Rev. Margaret Barr.

Copies will be sent c/o. the Minister of each Church, with notes for Minister and Superintendents.

THE INDIAN FUND NEEDS YOUR HELP.

UNITARIAN COLLEGE CHAPEL, MANCHESTER.

The opening took place on Tuesday, 5th October, when the dedicatory prayer was offered by the Rev. Dr. Alfred Hall. The event was of widespread interest. Many apologies were received, and a good number was present. The speakers were Dr. Alfred Hall, as President of Past and Present Students' Union; Mr. Ronald P. Jones, M.A., F.R.I.B.A., as Architect and as President this year of the College; and the Rev. J. H. Ewbank, B.A., B.D., for the old students. Dr. McLachlan briefly responded. The Rev. Herbert Barnes of Newcastle, was, next to Mr. Redfern, the senior student of Dr. McLachlan's period of office, but was prevented from attending through sickness. Mr. Redfern is at present abroad. There were 159 subscribers, of whom 79 were ministerial members of thePast and Present Students' Union, the remainder being mostly lay well-wishers of the institution. An illuminated address, leather-bound, was presented to Dr. McLachlan, after the address there followed the names of all subscribers in two lists as above. The major proceedings took place in the College Library and this was followed by an adjournment to the new Chapel.

REPORTS.

Newry—A special service was held on Sunday evening, September 21st, for the dedication of the new electric light system. *The Newry Reporter* devotes a whole page to this ceremony and to the sermon by Rev. J. McCleery, B.A., S.T.M., and includes portraits of the late Rev. G. J. Slipper, Rev. J. McCleery and the Church. The installation is dedicated to the memory of the Rev. G. J. Slipper, whose daughter, Mrs. McKinstry, switched on the lights. An appropriate tablet to Mr. Slipper will be unveiled on Mrs. Slipper's return. After enumerating the various public offices held by Mr. Slipper, the preacher described the progress which had been made in electric lighting, and then went on to contrast old methods of warfare with modern methods. "Why is it so many people think they can get on without Religion? It's because they are so taken up with the provision of more means, by which to live, and that is not religious realm. American statisticians have estimated that 100 years ago, the average man had 72 wants of which 16 were necessities, but that to-day the average man has 484 wants and 94 of them are necessities, and that, moreover, whereas a century ago 200 articles were urged on the average man by salesmanship, now 32,000 articles are urged on him. Now that is excellent—but it is not the secret of happiness. The very reason why we are going to have a revival of religion is because Communism and materialistic philosophy were never more in the saddle than they are to-day. A re-action is due. What do I mean by a revival? I mean a revival of ethical Christianity that will lay its hand on the amazing modern means and dedicate them to human good. What has Jesus to do with an age of aeroplanes, electric lights and motor cars? I would be doing a fine piece of work here to-night if I could make some of you listen to Jesus about the ends of life. "What profit if a man gain the whole modern world of means and loss his own soul?"

Downpatrick—Good attendances marked the annual harvest thanksgiving services in the First Presbyterian Non-Subscribing Church, Downpatrick. The church was tastefully adorned with foliage, fruit and flowers. An augmented choir under the leadership of Miss Marie Henry rendered the usual harvest hymns very harmoniously. Solos were given, in the morning by Mr. Henry Magrath of Bangor; in the morning and evening by Mr. Reid of Belfast, viz: "Rock of Ages," "The Blind Ploughman," and "The Harvester's Good Night Song." These touched all hearts.

Rev. Henry Hall of Hinckley, Leicester, preaching in the morning from John iv., 37, emphasised how great was our indebtedness to the labours of others, how we were all the time reaping where we had not sown.

> Your children gather as their own
> The harvest that the dead have sown:
> The dead, forgotten and unknown.

What were we doing in the way of sowing that others might reap? He quoted George Meredith, "Keep the young generation in hail, and beqeath them no tumbled house." No man could live his life consecrated to the loftiest purposes without making his mark upon his own generation, which would also exercise its influence on lives yet unborn. What was demanded of us in all circumstances was utter and absolute faithfulness to what was right and true.

In the evening the subject was "Death unto Life," based on John xii., 24. The preacher said that the highest manifestation of the sublime law of the universe, the law of sacrifice, was in Christ's life and death. He came "that men might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." But He had to die in order to achieve His purpose. The cross was "no dead fact stranded on the shore of the oblivious years." It was the joy-bringing redeeming power at work in the hearts of men wherever love held sway. "Seek not your own life, for that is death, but seek how best and most joyfully you can give your own life away, and every morning for ever fresh life shall come to you from over the hills."

All Souls' Belfast—Two very enjoyable Excursions were made by the Young People last month. One to Newcastle and the other to Portrush. The Wednesday night Rambles were also kept up and some very enjoyable walks were made round the countryside. We intend keeping up the Rambles as long as the weather is good. The destination will be announced each Sunday from the Pulpit.

Ballyhemlin—The Harvest Thanksgiving on Sunday, October 3rd, drew an overflowing congregation, many were standing outside on the green, listening to the service. The day was everything that could be desired, and in the afternoon-light the colours in the decorations stood out to advantage. The famous

Belgravia Quartette, frequently heard over "the wireless," contributed several items, which were very much admired. Miss Mc Master of Ballyhalbert, presided at the organ, and the choir was augmented by several voices from neighbouring congregations. The Rev. J. Barron preached from Psalm LXII, 15: "Also unto the Lord belongeth mercy, for He renders to every man according to his work." The collection was £11 1s. 9d.

Antrim—A very pretty wedding took place in the Old Presbyterian Church in Antrim on Wednesday, September 22nd The church was beautifully decorated for the occasion. The front seats being set apart for the guests mumbering about 30. The church was crowded inside, and out to the street. At 2 o'clock to the strains of Wagner's wedding march Miss Geannie Martin Jackson, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Jackson of Mt. Eden Park, Malone, entered the church on the arm of her father, wearing a bridal gown with train of ivory satin, with veil, headdress of orange blossom, carrying a bouquet of Harissi lilies, followed by her sister, Miss Mae Jackson, as bridesmaid, wearing a picture gown of taffeta in pastel mauve with a bandeau of forget-me-nots, and carrying a bouquet of sweet-pea. The bridegroom Mr. John Martin Frazer, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Frazer of North St., Belfast, had, as his best man his brother, Mr. Hugh Robert Frazer. The officiating minister, Rev. George Vance Crook, gave out the hymn "O perfect Love, all human thought transcending" followed by prayer. The marriage service concluded with a brief, but very beautiful address by the minister to the newly married pair, the choir singing the benediction—"The Lord bless thee and keep thee; the Lord make His face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee; the Lord lift up His countenance upon thee and give thee peace." The Register having been signed, the Bridal Party left the Church to the strains of Mendelssohn's Wedding March. Seldom has our little church in Antrim had such a picturesque and lovely wedding.

The guests were entertained sumptuously in the Grand Central Hotel, Belfast, in the afternoon.

Killinchy—Harvest Thanksgiving Services were held here on Sunday, October 3rd, morning and evening, when the preacher for the day was the Rev. Charles Simpson of Ballee. We were fortunate to have him consent to come here. His services both morning and evening were much appreciated and his sermons were much enjoyed by the large gatherings who came together. We recognise that the congregation of Ballee have secured a worthy minister who is likely to serve the Churches of the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church in our midst.

The festival of thanksgiving was continued on Monday evening, October 4th, at 7-30 p.m, when the local minister continu d our bequests to the Almighty giver of the gratuities of nature which we have received during the course of the year. The Services were assisted by an augmented choir who rendered the hymns of thanksgiving in a praiseworthy attitude, and both morning and evening the Anthem: "Thou, O God, art praised in Zion" was rendered.

The decorations of the Church were conducted by the ladies and gentlemen with grain, fruit and other products of the year. The whole display was much appreciated by large gatherings on the Sunday and also on Monday evening. Our organist, Miss Jennie Russell, presided at the organ through-out the three Services, and her services were much appreciated.

First Presbyterian Church, Belfast—Harvest Thanksgiving and Sunday School Anniversary was held on October 10th, when the Church was tastefully decorated with flowers, fruit, grain and vegetables. The preacher morning and evening was the Rev. R. Nicol Cross, M.A., and the organist Mr. Albert Taylor, L.R.A.M., A.R.C.M. There were large congregations. The morning anthem was Barnby's "Lord of the Harvest" and at night there was a special Musical Service, when selections from Haydn's "Creation" were rendered by an augumented choir, the soloists being, Miss Anne Duthie (soprano), Miss L. V. Gordon, L.R.A.M. (contralto), Mr. D. Houston (tenor), and Mr. J. Laird (baritone). It was an inspiring Service. Special collections were taken for the Sunday School, which will celebrate its Centenary next February.

The minister began a course of Sunday Evening Addresses on "Modern Psychology and Life" on October 17th and these will be continued in November. The object is not to deal with learned technicalities but with the practical applications of a subject that has now become part of the current culture of the time in intelligent reading circles. In Oct. the titles were "The Larger Self," "The Submerged Self" and "The mind and Healing," treated with a view to edfication

and helpfulness for ordinary folk in the midst of life and in consistency with the main purpose of the religious services of a church.

Belfast York St. activities are in full swing Monday is Ladies night. Tuesday we swim. Wednesday is Choir Practice and Discussion Society. Thursday is Dramatic Night. Friday is given to the Men and Boys while Saturday is the Guild. Sunday is a busy day with Morning Service. Sunday School, Fellowship, now also a crowded meeting, Evening Service and Social Hour. We look forward in spite of the set back due to our Ministers illness to another record year.

May we also take this opportunity of thanking all our Country friends who helped us at the Ulster Hall.

Holywood—The opening meeting of the senior branch of the Holywood Women's League on the 18th October took the form of a joint service of the Senior and Junior branches. This was conducted by Mrs. Munford who gave an inspiring address. The lessons were read by two members of the Junior League.

Clough — The Harvest Thanksgiving Services were held on Sunday, 17th October. Willing and loving hands decorated the Church with fruit and flower and vegetable from field and garden, on the Saturday afternoon. The preacher for the day was the Rev. F. Munford, B.A., and his services were much appreciated by good congregations—especially in the evening, when the seating capacity was taxed to the utmost. In the morning and evening the choir sang the anthem "While the earth remaineth," and Miss Madge Kirkpatrick presided at the organ. At the evening service Mr. Murphy sang the solos "How lovely are Thy dwellings" and "O Divine Redeemer" accompanied by Miss Murphy at the organ. The committee feel much obliged to them for their services which were much appreciated by the congregation. On Monday evening the services were continued, and a very good congregation gathered for a week-night service. The Rev. W. Howard Payne, All Souls' Church, Belfast, was the special preacher and his services were much appreciated. At the close the minister (Rev. J. Shaw Brown) publicly thanked the visiting preachers and the singers and the little band of workers, who had all helped to make the Thanksgiving Services a great success. On the Monday evening Mr. Robert Kirkpatrick was the soloist assisted by the choir.

Moneyrea—Harvest Thanksgiving Services were held on Sunday and Monday evening, 3rd and 4th of October. The Church was beautifully decorated by the ladies of the congregation for the occasion. The weather was good and all the Services were very well attended. Rev. F. Munford, B.A. of Mountpottinger, officiated on Sunday morning and evening, whose impressive sermons were highly appreciated. The choir gave splendid renderings of the anthems "The Earth is the Lord's" and "Thou crownest the year." Miss Marie Bailie sang the solo "Jesus make my life a song" very sweetly. The singing throughout was hearty for everybody joined in singing the old well known harvest hymns. Mrs. McCartney presided at the organ.

Mountpottinger Women's League—The opening meeting of the fourteenth Session was held on the 21st September, when Mrs. F. Munford gave a most interesting address. The attendance of members was very good. After tea, the Annual Meeting was held, at which all Officers were re-elected, with the exception of Miss Forrest, who has for a considerable number of years acted as Secretary. The resignation of Miss Forrest was very reluctantly accepted, but owing to the family having gone to live at Antrim she felt she could not continue the work satisfactorily. The October monthly meeting was held on the 5th of the month, which took the form of a Social, with readings, secitations and games. A cup of tea and chat brought a very enjoyable evening to a close.

Dromore—The Harvest Thanksgiving Services were held on Sunday, October 3rd, and continued on the Monday evening, the visiting ministers being the Rev. Wm. Eakin, Belfast, and the Rev. Wm. Howard Payne, All Souls' Church, Belfast. There were large and appreciative Congregations at all three Services, especially at the Sunday evening Service, which drew many outside friends. The choir, under the direction of Mr. E. S. Mills, the organist of the Church, ably sustained the praise, and rendered the anthem, "All Thy works praise Thee," Dr. Haughton Crowe (Banbridge) taking the solo part. A special feature at the Sunday Services, and one which gave much pleasure, was the singing by the "Lisadell Mixed Voice Quartet," of a "Vesper Hymn" at the evening Service. At the Monday evening Service, the Choir rendered the anthem "Thou crownest the year," Mr. Wm. Magill, Tenor (Belfast), and Mr. Wm. Carson, Baritone (Belfast)

taking the solo parts. Mr. Magill and Mr. Carson sang a duet "Lead, Kindly Light" and a solo entitled "Father in Heaven," was also given by Mr. Magill. The offertories for which no special appeal was made, were most gratifying, being considerably in excess of last year's figure.

Banbridge—As always our Church was most tastefully decorated with field, countryside, and garden products as tokens of Divine Providence and the Harvest Thanksgiving Services. Highest credit is due to the zeal and energies of the numerous young people who helped. It is on an occasion such as this we can appreciate the existence of the Women's League, and Y.P.L. as efficient parts of our church organization.

Our usual Harvest organist, Mrs. Thompson, having met with a car accident was in hospital; but we are happy to report that she is progressing. Her place was taken by an efficient substitute, Mrs. Clydesdale, thus releasing Mrs. Stevenson for solo parts and choir training. Mr. Kenneth Shooter was also invaluable here. One perennial friend, Mr. Spokes, recalled it was his 19th 'appearance.' We are grateful to friends who regularly and so willingly assist a sister church in this way. Mr. Hugh Chamber's solo, "Beautiful Isle of Somewhere" was a fitting part of the service. The choir's efforts in the anthems "Thou fillest all things" and "Break forth into joy" were rendered with reverential feeling and the voices of the young people were very pleasing and helpful.

The Rev. John McCleery, B.A., from Newry, was the preacher and he gave us two worthy discourses, both topical and both appropriate. The morning sermon was well reported in the local press. A very good collection resulted, forwarded to the Banbridge Nursing Society. Fruit and Flowers were sent to the local Hospital from which we received a note of thanks.

Raloo—On Sunday, 17th October, Harvest Thanksgiving Services were held in the above Church. The day was ideal, the Autumn tints in the trees and hedges of this picturesque district was very much admired by the visitors who always patronize our Harvest Services. The interior of the Church was tastefully decorated with flowers and fruits, principally by the children of the Sunday School under the guidance of a few ladies of the congregation. The Preacher at morning Service was Dr. A. L. Agnew, B.A., who delivered a very eloquent and stimulating address which was highly appreciated by a very large congregation, every seat being occupied. The evening preacher was Rev. W. Howard Payne, whose visit was his first to Raloo and his address on the message of the Flowers was listened too with rapt attention by a large congregation and much enjoyed. The children's choir led the singing at both services. Their sweet voices in the rendering of the well known harvest and children's hymns was greatly enjoyed. A feature of the evening service was a duet and quartette beautfully sung by our friends from Belfast and highly appreciated.

Glenarm—A social evening, under the auspices of the congregation of the Glenarm Old Presbyterian Church was held in the Church Hall, the occasion being availed of to bid farewell to the Rev. P. M. Lee, minister, and Mrs. Lee, who are leaving the district. Mr. Wm. Robinson presided.

After tea, dispensed by the members of the Ladies' Guild, the Chairman referred to the impending departure of Mr. and Mrs. Lee, and said that since Mr. Lee took charge of the congregation five years ago he had not spared himself in the interests of the church. He regretted very much that failing health compelled Mr. Lee to retire, and he hoped, as did the whole congregation, that being relieved from the onerous duty and living in a milder climate his health would soon improve. Mrs. Lee had been unceasing in doing good and charitable work, and the young people of the town and district would miss her.

At the Chairman's invitation, Mrs. Thomas McMullan presented to Mr. and Mrs. Lee an electric radio on behalf of the congregation. Mrs. McMullan paid a fitting tribute to Mr. and Mrs. Lee, and said she personally regretted their severance from the congregation. She wished them long life and happiness in their new home.

Rev. P. M. Lee, in a touching reply, said no one regretted more than he did having to leave Glenarm. He and Mrs. Lee had spent the happiest years of their lives among the Glenarm people. They had received nothing but kindness, not only from the members of his own church, but those of sister churches of all denominations. He had always admired the lovely scenery of the Glens, and hoped to return at intervals to see his numerous friends. He thanked the congregation for their beautiful gift, which he and Mrs. Lee would always prize and treasure, and hoped the church would continue to prosper.

Mr. James Robinson, treasurer of the church, proposed a vote of thanks to Mrs. McMullan, which was seconded by Captain George Dinsmore.

Mr. James Galbraith moved a vote of thanks to the Ladies' Guild for providing the tea, and especially to Mrs. Lee, the founder of the Guild. He also referred to the good work done by Mrs. James McMullan with the Sunday School. This was seconded by Mr. James Robinson, Deerpark.

A hearty vote of thanks to Mr. William Robinson for presiding, was voiced by Mr. Lee and Mr. John Galbraith, Tully. Musical selections were given on the radio, and a happy evening concluded with the singing of Auld Lang Syne.

Warrenpoint—Harvest Thanksgiving was held on Sunday, October 17th at 3 p.m. Decorations were beautifully done by several ladies and gentlemen. Miss Jean Smyth the well known radio artiste rendered the solo "How lovely are Thy dwellings." A very eloquent sermon fully reported in *The Newry Telegraph* was delivered by the minister, the Rev. John McCleery.

First Presbyterian Church, Belfast—An American Tea and Sale will be held in the the Central Hall, Rosemary St., on Wednesday, November 24th at 3-30 p.m., to be opened by Mrs. Thompson of Ballygally. Teas from 4—7 p.m., 1/- each. Friends will be welcome.

Crumlin—Harvest Festival Services were held on the last Sunday of September (26) when the preachers were the Rev. John Hinkins, (noon) and the Rev. J. Glynne Davies (7 p.m.). Good congregations assembled for both services and it was good to have expression of appreciation of both preachers. The decoration of the Meeting House was again very tastefully carried out and elicited much complimentary comment.

People fancy that old age means crookedness and witheredness and feebleness and sticks and spectacles and rheumatism and forgetfulness. Old age has nothing whatever to do with that. The right old age means strength and beauty and mirth and courage and bright eyes and vigorous mind and vitality! So take heart, my aging comrades, keep your mind alert, your heart warm and loving, be happy and contented, and all will be well.—George Macdonald.

OBITUARY.

Mrs. Charles C. Greenfield.

The Holywood congregation has lost another of its old and devoted members. Mary Elizabeth, widow of Charles C. Greenfield, of Farmhill Cottage, Marino, died in London on September 23rd as the result of a motor accident. Both she and her husband belonged to families with long and honourable association with Holywood. The Greenfields have been connected with our church for generations and Mrs. Greenfield was a daughter of the late Mr. John Vinycomb, a distinguished craftsman with pen and brush, who was at one time a member of the congregation. Gentle, charitable, and loyal, she won the affection of all who knew her. We offer our sincere sympathy with all who mourn her loss.

— The Unitarian and — Free Christian Men's League.

BELFAST CHAPTER

meets in the CENTRAL HALL, ROSEMARY STREET, at 8 p.m., Third Thursday of the month, October to May, inclusive.

OBJECTS (inter alia).

To encourage laymen to take a more active part in the work of the Churches.

To form a bond of union and closer co-operation between the members of the various congregations.

The Committee invite those who are not all ready members to join. The minimum subscription is 2/6, and further particulars may be obtained from—

MR. J. H. GILLILAND,
35 Rosemary St., Belfast, Hon. Sec.

MR. J. EDMONDSON, Jr., Asst. Hon, Sec,
19 Lime Street, Belfast.

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"THE CHURCH'S EVANGELISTIC MISSION."

THE CHRISTIAN WORLD of October 14th reported an "Inquiry into Ministerial Settlements" revealing the ineptitude and defects of the Congregational system. The case was cited of a minister who after ten years experience of the existing system, finally joined the Church of England. Mr, Shuter said "Many of the letters he had received in consequence of his own letter published in THE CHRISTIAN WORLD made pathetic reading. One minister and his wife were drawing poor law relief; another was working in a tannery; a third had mortgaged an insurance policy; and a fourth was now a commercial traveller—the only reason for their circumstances being that they were growing old. I believe we could have some form of connexionalism. No one is to blame. The system is responsible; and if some say that such a change would be cutting across our Independent principles, let us cut across them. If a thing is wrong, let us right it. It would be nothing less than an unspeakable relief if Congregationalists can find some path through this problem by which the essential values of our church polity may be retained, but the heavy burden upon us may be lightened. The resolution was unanimously carried, the appointment of the committee being deferred until to-day's (Thursday's) Assembly, so that members could give due consideration to their nominations. Those who are striving to encourage the constant drift to Congregationalism amongst us should ponder on these words. It seems amazing that any of our people should want to give up a system tried and proved over three centuries to enlist into a state of affairs which every other denomination has tried to escape from; and that when Congregationalists are turning to Presbyterianism, we are moving to Congregationalism."

Irish Presbyterian.

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ESTIMATES FREE.

1 BOWNESS ST. & McCANDLESS ST., BELFAST.

REVIEW.

The Lindsey Press Latest.

These two books, * first of a new series are surely written for this "brave new world" in which we are living. Certainly they are essentially for the courageous and fearless. Who should be otherwise? If one possesses a faith in the Fatherhood of God is there anything in this Universe of which one need be afraid?

"Uncensored Avowals" is the covering title of the series, and many a timid reader may which a censor had been called in. But it is no disparagement of a worthy faith that it had a lovely origin; any more than a proud, cultured man need be ashamed that once upon a time he was a puny infant, helpless and slobbering! The development of a babe through various stages towards its true sonship with God is a fascinating study. So too in this study "From Primitive to Modern Religion." Perhaps to read the last chapter before daring the earlier portions might be advisable for some. But young people who rejoice in the legacy of Freedom of thought so hardly won by their forbears should certainly invest the shilling and read this excellent little treatise.

Mr. Belton's "World Vision" is a worthy provocative little book, truly visionary and encouraging. No Y.P.L. library should be without it. In these days when we are so divided on such vital subjects as Nationalism, Fascism, Individualism and the like, this book is needed and joyously fills the need.

It is discipline of mind and heart that is required, perhaps to-day as never before. These two books help to that end and the rest of the series will be eagerly awaited by wide awake souls. They are both a mine of information and enthusiastic encouragement.

P. Godding.

* "From Primitive to Modern Religion" by R. F. Rattray, M.A., Ph.D., "World Vision" by Leslie J. Belton, B.A., M.Sc., both Lindsey Press, 1/- each. Can be had at "The Depository" 35 Rosemary Street, Belfast.

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Will our friends who see to the sale of this Magazine, kindly endeavour to get new subscribers.

SERMON BY DR. ANNIE BESANT.

AT ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS, HUIZEN, HOLLAND.

Brethren—You will remember that yesterday we were thinking along the lines of the words spoken by the Christ when He compared Himself to the Vine, His people to the branches. And He laid stress then on the fact that only by abiding in Him could we bring forth much fruit. Following on the teaching given by Him, endeavouring to realise what is meant by abiding in Him, we find that one condition of that abiding is that we shall keep His commandments as He had kept His Father's commandments and abides in His love. We have, then, to understand that the condition of abiding in Christ is that in our ordiuary life, in our daily behaviour, surrounded ever by friends or by strangers, we must ever bear in mind the keeping of His commandments, that were once summed up in the love of God and of our neighbour. We are to be living examples of that love for all with whom we come into contact, giving to each as we can that which will help him in the upward climb, realising that we are all brethren trying to follow the example of our Elder Brother, the Christ. And it is only by this practical obedience to the Divine will, by the shaping of our conduct according to the example of the Christ, it is only in that way that we shall grow towards His stature and become in some small measure less unworthy of being a branch of that living Vine.

For it must often have struck you in reading the story of the Christ, as given in the three synoptical Gospels, how little comparatively He gave of actual teaching. It is as though His life were that which drew the crowds around Him, as though it were the love that breathed out from Him continually that made all, whether good or bad in themselves, seek to draw near to Him. And so, with us who seek to be His disciples; it is our lives that must really spread His Message far more effectively than our words. Some of us may do much in the way of speaking or writing, that may be the particular talent which we have brought with us, which we have to put out in order that that part of His work may be fulfilled in us, but unless behind the writing and the speaking there is Christ's love showing through, very little effect can come from it, very little service to our brethren around. For the life itself is that which shapes everything after its own image, and just as in the long, long story of evolution form after form is built up, organ after organ is made perfect, by the ceaseless pressure of the life trying to perform its own natural function through this material which encases it, just in that way in the growth of one brief life, it is the life within us, the life drawn from the Christ, the life which comes from abiding in Him that will gradually shape us, both body and soul, after the likeness of Him Whom we adore. We can do far more good by noble living than by fine speaking, far more by setting a living example after our measure than by any amount of exhortation, and sometimes I have thought that one of the lessons we could learn from the Gospels is that He talked so little to the people at large, but He lived among them a life far more instructive than any words could have been.

And so we find much of His teaching to the people confined in parables, brief stories left unexplained; and then to those who were to carry on His work after He had physically left Palestine, to those who were to spread His message to the world, to those He gave further explanation, told them the inner meaning of the parables, inspired them with the full message of the life which they were to try to reproduce among their fellow-men. And so to many of us the greatest value of that life is in its holiness even more than in its verbal teaching, in that exquisite Example of Perfection, and in the influence it exercised far more than in the words which were spoken, and gradually we come in our turn to realise that unless behind all we say the Christ life is lived, unless behind all we may write and speak or teach to the people, the Christ-life makes itself felt by radiating through us and all around us, we cannot bear the fruit the Father desires, we cannot abide in Christ as He abides in the Father. There lies, then, our truest message to the world, there lies our greatest service, our highest duty,—so to dwell on the life of the Christ that it may permeate our every thought, our every desire, our every action, and then we shall be one of His true messengers to His people and by the force of the Divine life that radiates from us, we shall draw others to the Source in which dwell Love and Life and Peace.—*St. Michael's News*, Holland.

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